

SEPTEMBER 2015

President's Corner



We have had an extremely eventful summer for the APWA Mid-Atlantic Chapter. The Chapter held a Stormwater Lunch and Learn event in Lynchburg, VA with over 70 attendees; plan to join us Oct. 1st for the Next Generation Technologies in Public Works workshop, Yorktown, VA, at the Riverwalk Restaurant. Many Chapter members attended the national APWA Conference and the Chapter's dinner in Phoenix. While at the conference the Mid-Atlantic Chapter received its 10th Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence. As the final feather in our cap, we completed our plans for the first Mid-Atlantic Public Works Institute (PWI), which is supported by the Chapter and Virginia Tech. The first PWI session begins September 22nd in Blacksburg, VA.

In August the Chapter Board of Directors also approved a new Strategic Plan. The final approval of the Strategic Plan is a significant achievement. The Strategic Plan will guide the direction of the Chapter over the life of the plan. The plan has three goals that the Chapter will strive to achieve.

Goal 1. Young Professionals. Target public works professionals early in their career to enhance the profession and develop their knowledge/skills.

The Chapter is in the early stages of creating a Young Professionals Group. We plan on reaching out to local colleges and universities to raise awareness with students about the public works profession. Programs and events geared towards the development of young professionals will be held. Furthermore, we look for our experienced membership to invite the young professionals from their organizations to participate with APWA.

Goal 2. Membership Outreach and Engagement. Sustain and broaden Chapter membership.

The Chapter strives to articulate the benefits of membership and in particular membership with the Mid-Atlantic Chapter. In order to sustain the Chapter we must continually work to increase and diversify our membership. A key strategy is the creation of new membership incentives. One of these incentives will be a free one year membership to non-members that attend the annual Chapter conference. We will also complete an analysis to determine which municipal agencies are not represented in the Chapter and extend an invitation to join.

Goal 3. Education. Target Successful educational programs, provide a diverse offering of topics.

We have been working hard on achieving this goal. The Mid-Atlantic Public Works Institute is a major effort to provide leadership education to our membership. We also will host lunch and learn events throughout the geographical region of the Chapter. These venues will be opportunities to learn and network with fellow public works professionals. Finally, we hope to utilize our technical committees to conduct at least one annual educational event.

I am proud to say that the Chapter is making great strides in meeting the goals of the strategic plan. The actions help us to further serve our membership and provide them with tools to serve their community.

Matt Villareal
Chapter President
APWA Mid-Atlantic Chapter

